



WEST CENTRAL REGION

MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

SEPTEMBER 2022

Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Projected to have the most annual total job openings

over 1,100

Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Most grade A and B annual openings

over 1,100

Architecture & Engineering, Legal, and Farming Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs Concentration

100%

Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on outlook over the next decade. **Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and average wages.** Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The West Central region is projected to have almost 8,400 annual job openings through 2030. The vast majority (98%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations earn more and have higher growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 41 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations, and are projected to grow more than three times faster than the average growth rate.

Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

Grade A

909 Job Openings
\$56,062 Average Wage

Grade B

5,024 Job Openings
\$38,446 Average Wage

Grade C

2,383 Job Openings
\$36,927 Average Wage

Top Outlook Occupation Groups

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,147	1,106	96%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,083	1,036	96%
Healthcare Support	801	794	99%
Education, Training, & Library	428	400	93%
Production	762	398	52%
Sales & Related	835	337	40%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	383	335	87%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	356	331	93%
Management	270	246	91%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	305	205	67%
Construction & Extraction	292	169	58%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	145	145	100%
Business & Financial Operations	202	144	71%
Office & Administrative Support	893	79	9%
Community & Social Service	162	72	44%

West Central Top Grade Jobs

Now Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Home Health & Personal Care Aides 🟡	525	14.8%	\$23,221
B	Fast Food & Counter Workers 🟡	375	8.6%	\$22,968
B+	Waiters & Waitresses	350	12.2%	\$21,534
B+	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand 🟡	293	8.8%	\$28,528
B	Retail Salespersons 🟡	253	-1.9%	\$30,065
B	Stockers & Order Fillers 🟡	205	5.2%	\$26,998
B	Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners 🟡	181	3.9%	\$27,735
B	Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	150	6.2%	\$30,278
A	Passenger Vehicle Drivers, Except Bus Drivers, Transit & Intercity	148	19.9%	\$26,856
B	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, & Aquacultural Animals	125	-1.8%	\$31,431

Next Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	Cooks, Restaurant	279	42.3%	\$23,775
B	Nursing Assistants 🟡	188	2.8%	\$24,800
B+	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🟡	181	6.7%	\$46,418
B	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General 🟡	144	3.7%	\$36,866
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	94	4.0%	\$24,987
A	First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	64	9.3%	\$58,896
B	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses 🟡	61	3.2%	\$42,095
A	Molding, Coremaking, & Casting Machine Setters	61	12.7%	\$48,824
B	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	60	1.9%	\$37,042
B	Food Batchmakers	59	9.3%	\$37,123

Later Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Tech. Edu.	167	4.2%	\$43,959
A	General & Operations Managers 🟡	134	7.7%	\$73,853
A	Registered Nurses 🟡	98	7.3%	\$61,338
B	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	53	3.8%	\$45,680
B	Project Mngmt. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists, All Other	41	-0.2%	\$67,832
B+	Accountants & Auditors	38	8.6%	\$54,675
B	Educational, Guidance, School, & Vocational Counselors 🟡	32	5.7%	\$46,929
B	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	31	8.3%	\$27,010
B	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, & Mental Health Counselors 🟡	26	19.3%	\$41,555
B	Loan Officers	24	-2.6%	\$71,404

🟡 Flame icon indicates occupations with high numbers of online job ad postings in 2021.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). ¹Lightcasif¹. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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